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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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January 9, 2009

TO: Health Deputies

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE NEHEMIAH COURT APARTMENTS HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT HOUSING PROGRAM**

This is to inform you that the Department of Mental Health (DMH), as required under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), has opened a public review and comment period for the Nehemiah Court Apartments Housing Project proposed to be funded through the MHSA Housing Program. The public review and comment period will run from January 5, 2009 through February 3, 2009. The document under review is posted on the DMH web site (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/mhsa>).

On June 10, 2008 the Board approved the DMH MHSA Housing Program Plan and authorized the Department to participate in the statewide MHSA Housing Program jointly administered by the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH) and the California Housing and Finance Agency (CalHFA) for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and their families. CDMH subsequently allocated Los Angeles County \$115,571,200 and transferred the funds to CalHFA to administer the funds and underwrite the loans. DMH has a non-competitive process for soliciting projects for consideration.

The Nehemiah Court Apartments Housing Project is the eighth MHSA Housing Program project to be posted for public comment in Los Angeles. A Community of Friends (ACOF) & PATH Ventures are joint project sponsors of this shared housing project. Under this model, the tenants will have an individual lease for a bedroom and shared common areas, such as, a kitchen and living room. The project is located in Service Area 3 in Supervisorial District 5 and will target homeless individuals with a psychiatric disability. ACOF & PATH Ventures are requesting a MHSA funded capital development loan of \$777,120 and \$600,000 for operating subsidies for this project, with 12 units (of a total of 14 units) funded by MHSA and dedicated to individuals with psychiatric disabilities.

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Following the public comment period, DMH will summarize the comments, analyze any substantive recommendations and revise the project, as appropriate. DMH will then send the MHSA Housing Program application to CDMH and CalHFA for review, approval and underwriting.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dr. Maria Funk, District Chief, Countywide Housing, Employment and Education Resource Development at (213) 251-6582.

MJS:MF:RT:gnr

c: Robin Kay, Ph.D.
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